

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-276

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Mount Gregory United Methodist Church
other

2. Location

street and number 2325 Maryland Route 97 not for publication
city, town Cooksville X vicinity
county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mount Gregory United Methodist Church
street and number 2323 Maryland Route 97 telephone 410-489-7526
city, town Cooksville state MD zip code 21723

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 14-130
city, town Ellicott City liber 5532 folio 683

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
			Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> <u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>1</u> <u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-276

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Mount Gregory United Methodist Church is located at 2325 Maryland Route 97, approximately one mile south of Cooksville in northwestern Howard County, Maryland. The church faces west toward the road and is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, asbestos shingles with corner boards, and a gable roof with inverted-V-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The west elevation has a new steel offset double door in the center bay, with three concrete steps below it. The doorway has plain architrave and a lancet-shaped blind transom with beaded-edge vertical boards and two chamfered mullions that create smaller lancets. The frame is also chamfered, and it appears that the transom was never glazed. The end bays have a one-over-one double-hung Queen Anne sash with a lancet-profile opening, wood sills and plain trim. There is a date plaque over the door that reads, "Mount Gregory ME Church erected 1902." It is set in a frame that has two center beads and a beaded interior edge. The gable end has an oculus with four lights. The roof has exposed rafter ends. There is a shallow break in the gable end, where it projects slightly forward. The north corner of the foundation has a marble date stone carved, "August 14, 1898."

The south elevation is five bays with a center door that is metal and has six panels. It has head cut trim and a pent roof over it that has asphalt roll roofing. There are four typical Queen Anne lancet windows. The eave is open and has exposed rafter ends. The east elevation has a projecting three-sided rectangular apse that has a rubble stone foundation. The gable roof is lower than the main building, has an east-west ridge, and has exposed rafters. There is a typical Queen Anne lancet on both the north and south sides of the apse. To the north of the apse is an exterior brick chimney. There is a cellar entrance to the south of the apse that has a concrete foundation, asbestos shingles, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. On the east elevation of this entrance is a pair of hollow core doors. On the north elevation, the foundation has a window opening in-filled with concrete in the east bay and another opening in-filled with a board between the west and west-center bays. This opening has CMU jambs. The first story has four typical Queen Anne lancet sashes. The foundation also has an in-filled window in the center, filled with concrete but with no CMUs. The corner boards have black paint below the white paint, and green paint below that, with traces of an iron oxide red on the wood that could be a primer.

The sanctuary is one open room. The floor is partially carpeted and partially painted wood that appears to be pine. It is tongue and grooved, is 3-½ inches wide, and runs east-west. There is half wainscot on the walls that is 3-inch-wide tongue and grooved boards with three beads in the center and a bead on the edge. The wainscot is topped with a quirked ogee and bevel above a torus and cavetto. The ogee and bevel appears to be used to hold the pressed metal wall covering in place at the bottom. The architrave is symmetrical with two beads in the center, an ogee to the outer side and a cavetto to the inner side, plus a bead on the interior edge. The wainscot is installed over top of plaster that is only visible at the edge of the windowsill. Above the wainscot is a pressed metal wall covering that has 5-½ inch wide vertical bands of lozenge moulding with fleur de lis. It is painted white and is face-nailed on furring strips attached to the wall, and it appears the furring strips are set on top of the plaster. There is a wide, pressed metal frieze with urns connected by swags and torches between. There are acanthus scrolls and a wide torus at the top of the frieze. The frieze is painted a dull gold. The gable ends have pressed metal with a pebbled finish. Above the frieze at the eave is a pressed metal cove, and the ceiling also has pressed metal following the gable pitch. This ceiling has a pebbled finish margin, a small rectangular band, and square panels over most of the ceiling. Above the door are beaded-edge vertical boards. The window sash are hung on cords and the large center lights are mostly frosted, though some have been replaced with clear or beveled glass. The small lights have a frosted pattern of large and small rosettes. The top sash is fixed with the lancet set in a square opening with plain wood in the spandrels. The trim is squared off, while the trim over the door has a lancet profile. The ceiling has a hatch at the west end, near the northwest corner.

The existing lights appear to be modern reproductions, and the pews are modern oak. The east end of the sanctuary is raised one step, with an alter rail. The rail has square balusters with circular-saw and planer chatter marks, has wire nails, and a moulded rail with a natural finish. There is an additional step up to the dais, which has a pulpit, lectern, and low wall, all with modern paneling. On the east wall, the wainscot is at the same level as the rest of the church, then is angled up to bring it to sill height when it turns into the apse. The wainscot only has a torus and cavetto at the top, and above it is paneling. The pressed metal frieze is carried

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Name Mount Gregory United Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

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around. The apse has a lower ceiling with small pressed metal squares. The altar also has modern paneling. The south wall, in the center, has the metal six-panel door with head cut trim, and this was clearly added later. The windows on the west have higher sills than the other windows.

The basement has a linoleum floor, modern paneling, and ceiling tiles. There is a partition wall that runs east-west in the center, with one large room on the south. In the northwest there is a large modern kitchen, with a restroom in the center that has a vertical board door that now has paneling. This door has a plain cast iron rim lock with a metal knob. In the northeast corner is a furnace room that has the same door as the restroom, and has older linoleum that probably dates to the 1950s, over top of concrete. There are CMU walls set inside of the rubble stone foundation. On the east elevation, set to the south, are hollow-core double doors that lead to the concrete stairs outside.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder n/a

Construction dates 1898-1902

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The lot on which Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church stands has had a long association with the African-American community in Howard County. As early as 1846 a black school, known as the "Warfield Academy" was constructed on this site, though the Baltimore lumber merchants, Coates & Glenn, were not paid and had to sue to recover the debts. The Howard District Sheriff took possession of the property and offered it for sale in 1851. The one-acre parcel and building was purchased by Thomas Hood for \$587. The 1860 Martenet map shows Hood as the owner, but does not provide any other information. Hood sold the property to a board of trustees for \$1500 in 1867, "with the buildings erected thereon heretofore known as 'Warfield's Academy' and now called 'Mount Gregory' . . . for the exclusive use occupancy benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent to have, hold, use and occupy the buildings that are now, or may hereafter be erected thereon as a school or seminary." According to a history of Mt. Gregory Church, about this time "classes were set up in a vacant, two-story stone building on the land, and Cooksville's black residents soon began meeting for Methodist services on the first floor." While it seems unlikely that the men who founded the "Warfield Academy" would have built anything as substantial as a two-story stone building for black education, church services were probably started around that time. The 1878 Hopkins atlas shows this as "Mt. Gregory Cold ME Church" and makes no reference to a school. Most likely, the original building was serving both functions for the community. (1)

The use of the school for church services was somewhat problematic, since the deed had set the purpose of the property as educational, but the Hood family removed these restrictions in 1899. This was no doubt related to plans to build a new church. The cornerstone was laid in August 1898 under the direction of the Improved Order of Sons and Daughters of Joshua and the National Progressive Order of Odd Fellows. There are two date stones on the front of the church, one for the cornerstone laying, and another set into the frame wall above the door, which reads "erected 1902." For unknown reasons the completion of the building was delayed, and no other newspaper account could be found to enlighten us on why the delay or who was responsible for the construction of the building. The building is a simple frame, Gothic Revival structure that has significant surviving interior finishes, consisting of pressed metal walls, cornices, and ceilings. The use of metal ceilings in small rural churches of this period was not unusual, but the wall coverings and substantial cornices were. The Penn Iron Roofing & Cornice Co. of Philadelphia was advertising "Sagendorf's Patent Sectional Steel Ceilings and Side Wall Finish," "for churches and residences," in the Ellicott City Times at least as early as 1895, but whether the Mt. Gregory congregation used it or another company's product is not known. There is plaster beneath the metal walls, suggesting that it was either added at a later date, or covers earlier walls; if the latter, then the church must have been an alteration of the earlier building, rather than a completely new project. It seems more likely that the metal was added at some time after the church was completed, and longer than the four years between the laying of the cornerstone and the installation of the second stone.

The school on the property burned in 1922, and was rebuilt by the school board. Cooksville Colored School opened for grades 1

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Name Mount Gregory United Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

through 7 in 1927, and in 1935 it was expanded to 11 grades, making it the first black high school in the county. This building continued to be used as an elementary school until 1964, and later was used by the county for storage. It stood just southeast of the church, but it, too, burned. The church pews and altar furniture have all been replaced in the 1960s or '70s. At an unknown date the basement was excavated to provide additional room for the congregation, and a stairway cut through the floor near the rear in order to reach it. A door was also added on the south side at an unknown date, probably for convenience since the parking lot is to the south. Neither of these changes has had a great impact on the building. However, there has been a plan for some years of demolishing the building and constructing a new one, elsewhere on the lot. There have been reports of a cemetery located on the property, but there is nothing remaining above ground to suggest where it might be. (3)

Notes:

- (1). Cleora Barnes Thompson, "Mt. Gregory U. M. Church" HO-276, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, nd. Matchett's Baltimore Director, (Baltimore: 1847-48), p. 69. Martenet's Map of Howard County, (Baltimore: 1860). Howard County Land Records, WWW 27-4. Susan DeFord, "Despite Deep Roots, a Quandary of Growing Pains." Washington Post, "Howard Extra," 17 February 2005. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore, Including Howard County, Maryland (Philadelphia: 1878).
- (2). Ellicott City Times, 23 July 1898, p. 3, col. 2. Ellicott City Times, 30 November 1895, p. 2, col. 2.
- (3). DeFord, Washington Post, 17 February 2005.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.69 acres

Acreage of historical setting 3.69 acres

Quadrangle name Woodbine

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is the property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 8/16/2006

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No. HO-276

● Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Mount Gregory United Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

See footnotes

●

●

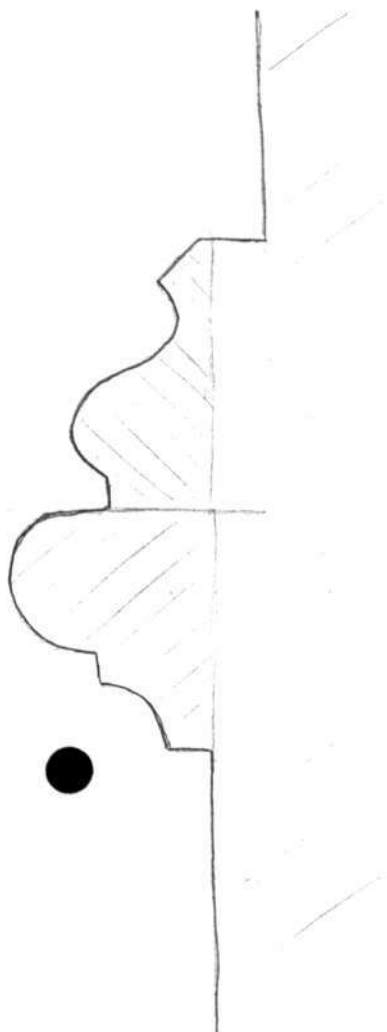
Mt. Gregory Church (HO-276)
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Charles W. Anderson et al, Bd. of Trustees of Mt. Gregory U. M. Church	Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church/Howard	3.11.2001	5532-683	Deed-fee simple	\$1.00	1) ?? 2) 3.69 A	2 parcels
Howard Co. MD	Albert Clipper et al Trustees of Mt. Gregory U. M. Church	8.20.1990	2237-253	Confirm. Deed	??	3.69 A	Remove reverter clause (2)
John T. Dorsey et al, Trustees/Howard of Mt. Gregory or Warfields Academy property	Charles H. Hopkins, et al, Trustees of M.E. Church of Sykesville Circuit and Washington Conference	1.14.1901	JHO-73- 139	Deed-in trust	\$1.00	60 x 100 ft. (6,000 sq. ft.)	(1) for benefit and use of M. E. Church
Stephen G. Hood & wf. Emma A., et al, heirs of Thomas Hood/Howard	John T. Dorsey et al trustees of Mt. Gregory or Warfield Academy	12.28.1899	JHO 71-342	Deed fee simple	\$1.00	?	1) remove reversionary rights restricting property to school use only
Thomas H. Hood & wf. Sarah/Howard	George Snowden, et al Trustees	5.2.1857	WWW 27-4	Deed-fee simple	\$1,500	1 A	(1) "With the buildings erected thereon heretofore known as 'Warfields Academy' and now called 'Mount Gregory'" "for the exclusive use occupancy benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent to have, hold, use and occupy the buildings that are now, or may hereafter be erected thereon as a school or seminary..."
Charles G. Haslup Sheriff, Howard District, Anne Arundel County	Thomas H. Hood / Howard District, Anne Arundel County	6.17.1851	WHW-12- 72	Deed - Indenture	\$587	1A	(1)1 Mar. 1851 Ho. Dist. Ct. judgment for John Coates & William C. Glenn of firm of Coates & Glenn ag. Warfield Academy \$268.54 w/int. from 5 Sept. 1846 & \$203 for costs Thomas Goodwill public sale 14 Jan. 1851 [no previous ref.]

1/1

Mt. Gregory Methodist Church HO-276 Kms
Moulding Profiles

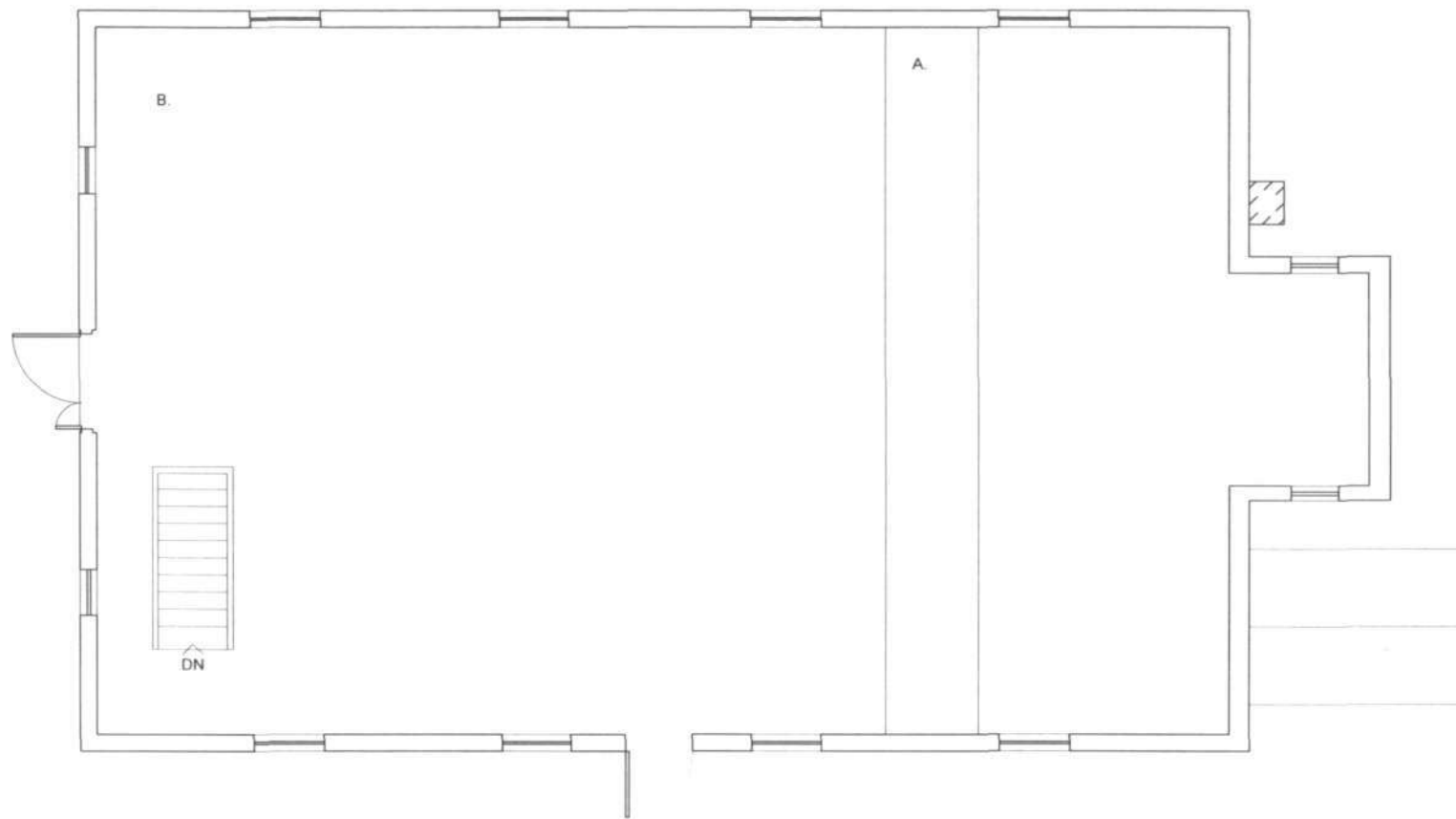
23 Mar. '01



Chair
rail



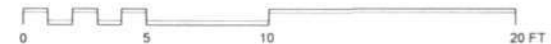
Architrave



NOTES:

A. MODERN RAILINGS AND OPENINGS NOT SHOWN.

b. NEW PEWS NOT SHOWN.



HO- 276 MT. GREGORY CHURCH 2325 MD ROUTE 97

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - MEASURED AND DRAWN BY KEN SHORT - MARCH2006



HO-276

Mt. Gregory U.M. Church
2325 MD Route 97
Hopkins Atlas, 1878

Attachment 2
HO-276

Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Woodbine Quadrangle

HO-0276_20060323_01
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
West elevation
Ken Short
March 2006
1/11

HO-0276_20060323_05
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
North elevation
Ken Short
March 2006
5/11

HO-0276_20060323_09
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Interior cornice & ceiling
Ken Short
March 2006
9/11

HO-0276_20060323_02
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
West elevation, cornerstone
Ken Short
March 2006
2/11

HO-0276_20060323_06
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Interior-vw northeast
Ken Short
March 2006
6/11

HO-0276_20060323_10
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Apse ceiling
Ken Short
March 2006
10/11

HO-0276_20060323_03
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
West elevation, gable datestone
Ken Short
March 2006
3/11

HO-0276_20060323_07
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Interior-vw southwest
Ken Short
March 2006
7/11

HO-0276_20060323_11
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Interior-wallcovering
Ken Short
March 2006
11/11

HO-0276_20060323_04
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
South & east elevations
Ken Short
March 2006
4/11

HO-0276_20060323_08
Mt. Gregory United Methodist
Church
2325 Maryland Route 97
Howard County, MD
Interior-frieze
Ken Short
March 2006
8/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, West elevation
Ken Short, March 2006 1/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, West elevation, cornerstone
Ken Short, March 2006 2/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, West elevation, gable datestone
Ken Short, March 2006 3/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, South & east elevations
Ken Short, March 2006 4/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, North elevation
Ken Short, March 2006 5/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Interior, view northeast
Ken Short, March 2006 6/11



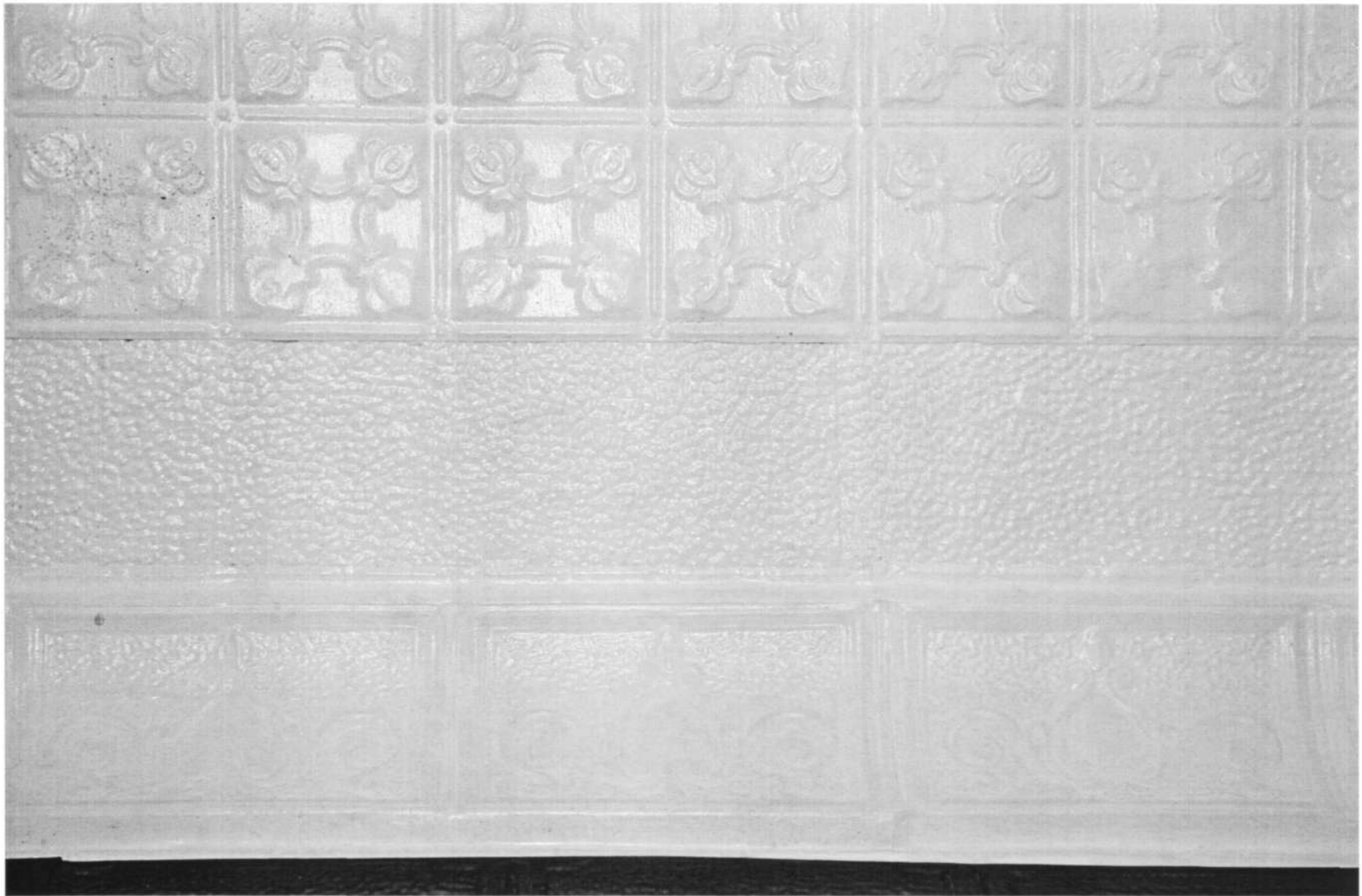
HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Interior, view southwest
Ken Short, March 2006 7/11



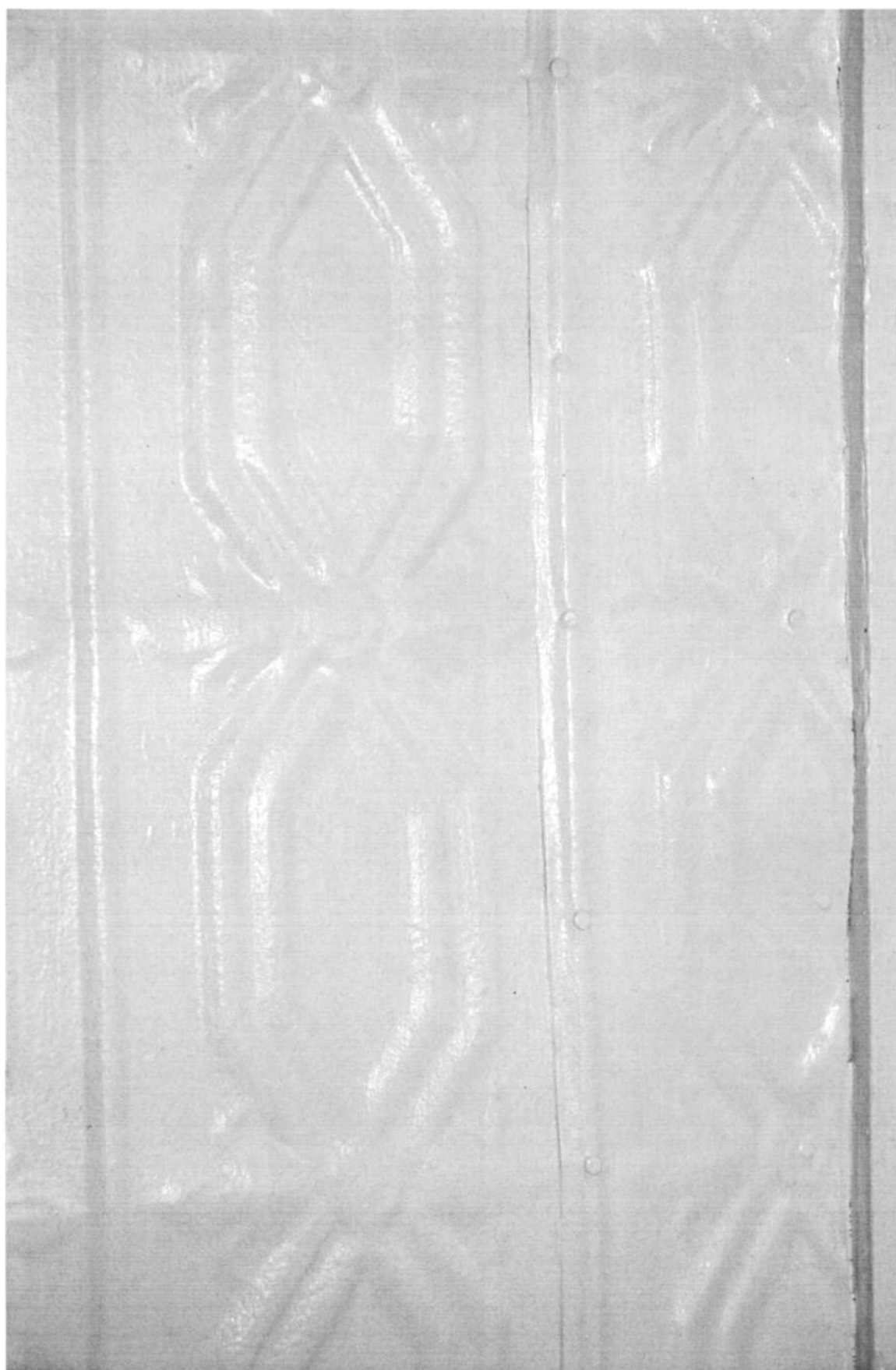
HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Interior, frieze
Ken Short, March 2006 8/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Interior cornice and ceiling
Ken Short, March 2006 9/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Apse ceiling
Ken Short, March 2006 10/11



HO-0276 Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church 2325 Maryland Route 97, Interior wallcovering
Ken Short, March 2006 11/11

HO-276

Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
Cooksville
Private

Circa 1898

The Mt. Gregory U. M. Church faces west on the east side of Route 97, just south of Miller's Mill Road. It is a three bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) building, resting on a stone foundation, with gabled roof (running east-west) open belfry, resting on the apex of the gable roof, over the main west entrance.

Fenestration is gothic arched and double-hung, holding two-over-two lights, which are bordered by a narrow row of nine lights-over-thirteen lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and encased in a plain wooden archivolt.

The main entrance is a double, rectangular entrance, surmounted by a blocked-in, gothic arched transom, all of which is encased in a plain wooden archivolt, flanked by gothic arched windows, similar to those described.

A small rectangular molding rests above the central entrance, with the inscription, "Mt. Gregory M. E. Church, Erected AD 1902". A cornerstone is inscribed August 16, 1898.

Mt. Gregory is one of the most notable black churches in Howard County, Maryland, with its roots going back to a black school, formed circa 1846, known as "Warfield Academy". Additionally, it is a fine example of the Gothic Revival Style of the late nineteenth century, constructed in frame, with a fine Victorian interior featuring its original pine floors, beaded wainscoting, chair rail and pressed tin ceiling and wall covering. Its exterior features, although covered by aluminum siding, are otherwise completely retained. The history of the congregation is important for two reasons: it reflects a common practice in the educational history of the United States and exemplifies the evolution of this particular community from one concerned with the education of the black man to the formation of a religious community. Not only does this Church remain intact, but log houses still stand, which are occupied by the families of the original trustees of "Warfield Academy", which anteceded and led to the formation of Mt. Gregory. "Warfield Academy" was a school or seminary "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent", formed circa 1846. The log houses, which still stand are located not far from the Church. One of these is HO-102, The Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin on the opposite side of Route 97 and HO-181, The R. Hook Log House on Route 144, east of its intersection with Route 97.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-276
Woodbine Quad
District 4
MAGI# 1402765608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Gregory U. M. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(MD Route 97) Roxbury Mills Road

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees for Mt. Gregory U.M.Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route 97

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tax Map 14, p. 130
Hall of Records

Liber #: 916

Folio #: 406

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-276
Woodbine Quad
District 4

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mt. Gregory U.M. Church faces west on the east side of Route 97, just south of Miller's Mill Road. It is a three bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) building, resting on a stone foundation, with gabled roof (running east-west) open belfry, resting on the apex of the gable roof, over the main west entrance.

Fenestration is gothic arched and double-hung, holding two -over-two lights, which are bordered by a narrow row of nine lights-over-thirteen lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and encased in a plain wooden archivolt.

The main entrance is a double, rectangular entrance, surmounted by a blocked-in, gothic arched transom, all of which is encased in a plain wooden archivolt, flanked by gothic arched windows, similar to those described.

A small rectangular molding rests above the central entrance, with the inscription, "Mt. Gregory M.E. Church, Erected AD 1902".

A four light, bulls eye, encased in a plain circular molding is inset into the gable of the roofline.

A corner stone on the north side of the west wall is inscribed, "August 16, 1898."

Another rectangular entrance, covered by a shed roofed, hood, is located in the center at the building's south wall, flanked by two large, gothic arched, nave windows, which are in line with the four similar windows on the north wall. Originally an old, square brick, interior chimney, was placed in this location for an outlet for a coal stove, which heated the building.

A gabled roof apse is centered on the east wall of the building and holds a north and south window, similar to those described. It now holds the sanctuary with its altar, where once a simple pulpit stood.

The interior holds a central aisle and two side aisles, with the altar inset into the apse. Originally the pews went directly to the sides of the nave with a single aisle only. These pews have been replaced.

The window moldings are fluted and mitred. Three inch beaded wainscoting runs around the perimeter of the nave, terminated by the original chair rail. A chain patterned, pressed tin wall covering, so representative of Victorian architecture, runs from chair rail to ceiling, terminating in, and bordered by a Greek urn frieze in pressed tin, which runs around the entire perimeter of both the nave and its sanctuary.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

DESCRIPTION (continued)
The Mt. Gregory U.M. Church
Page 2 of 2

HO-276
Woodbine Quad
District 4

A pressed tin ceiling covering, of a square design, decorates the ceiling of the nave.

The floors are four inch wide pine.

Forty years ago the basement of the church was dug out and now holds bathrooms, dining room and a kitchen for the church.

8 SIGNIFICANCEHO-276
Woodbine Quad
District 4

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Gregory is one of the most notable black churches in Howard County, Maryland, with its roots going back to a black school, formed circa 1846, known as "Warfield Academy".¹ Additionally it is a fine example of the Gothic Revival Style of the late nineteenth century, constructed in frame, with a fine Victorian interior featuring its original pine floors, beaded wainscotting, chair rail and pressed tin ceiling and wall covering. Its exterior features, although covered by aluminum siding, are otherwise (See description) completely retained. The history of the congregation is important for two reasons: it reflects a common practise in the educational history of the United States² and exemplifies the evolution of this particular community from one concerned with the education of the black man to the formation of a religious community.³ Not only does this Church remain intact, but log houses still stand, which are occupied by the families of the original trustees of "Warfield Academy", which anteceded and led to the formation of Mt. Gregory. "Warfield Academy" was a school or seminary "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent", formed circa 1846. The log houses, which still stand are located not far from the Church. One of these is HO-102, The Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin on the opposite side of Route 97 and HO-181, The R. Hook Log House on Route 144, east of its intersection with Route 97. See item 7 for architectural worth.

History and Support

1. Mt. Gregory is one of some six black churches in Howard County, which date from the nineteenth century and are all tied to the black educational history of this area, as well as to its religious history. In addition, Mt. Gregory is associated with the family of Thomas Hood, one of the first County Commissioners for Howard County, who was instrumental in the formation and continuance of this black school and later its church. On the 3rd Monday of March, 1850 the Firm of Coates and Glenn attempted to recover in the Howard County Court a debt of \$268.54, which had been incurred since September 5, 1846, from "Warfield Academy". The school was put up for auction by the Sheriff of the Howard District of Anne Anedel County, Mr. Charles Haslup, Esquire, who conducted a public sale of the property. Mr. Thomas Hood was the highest bidder at \$587.00. It is thus documented that the institution from which Mt. Gregory was formed, was in existence in 1846.

2. Some years later, on May 2, 1867, Thomas and his wife Sarah Hood, conveyed a deed of the property to the Trustees of "Warfield Academy" (see title search for a list of names) with certain restrictions, to wit, "that said property should be used for school purposes only" . . . "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the colored people or persons of African descent". . . "as a school or seminary under the order, control, and direction of the said Trustees". This common practise of separate but unequal educational facilities for our black population in the United States was finally overturned in the 1950's by the Supreme Court.

3. By 1899, it was decided by those concerned, that the property should also be used for church purposes. The heirs of Thomas Hood at that time conveyed a deed to the Trustees of "Mt. Gregory" or "Warfield Academy" (see attached Title Search for a list of their names) lifting the restriction, "for school purposes only" and relinquishing any reversion to them of the property. In 1925, Margaret E. Dorsey and Albert N. Dorsey and the Patapsco National Bank of Ellicott City conveyed the property to the Board of Education of Howard County, since it was used as a black school under the county school system. By 1964 the Board of Education conveyed the property to the County Commissioners, who in 1978 conveyed a deed of 3.69 Acres to the Trustees of Mt. Gregory U. M. Church. The church and its congregation reflect the history of the area, many of whom, like the family of Albert E. France go back to the 1860 period, when a descendant of Albert E. France and slave of the Thomas Hood family, was freed and a log house constructed for her and her family. For these reasons, as well as for its fine example of the Gothic Revival and its architectural integrity, Mt. Gregory should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.69 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 14

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 916 Folio 406

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Page 1 of 3

HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
 (Tax Map 14, p. 130)
 Prepared by Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
27-11-78	916-406	Howard County, MD	Marcus N. Dorsey, Ella Miles, Albert E. France, Nathan Possett, Alexander Sands, Charles P. Cook, Vernon C. Dorsey, Nathan C. Smith, Douglas B. Sands, Trustees for Mt. Gregory U. M. Church	Deed for 3.69 Acres for \$5.00 Stipulation "that if this parcel of ground shall cease to be used for reli- gious purposes by the Trus- tees for Mt. Gregory". . . this parcel of ground shall revert back to "County" ownership.
23-9-64	427-54	Board of Education of Howard County	Board of County Commissioners of Howard County	Deed for 3 Parcels of Land
18-5-25	123-482	Margaret E. Dorsey Albert N. Dorsey, and the Patapsco National Bank of Ellicott City	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for 1 Acre (Parcel #1)
26-2-24	121-20	Stephen G. Hood	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for Parcel #2
		Circuit Court of Howard County	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for Parcel #3 (1.891 Acres)
		"The Board of Education of Howard County vs. James Randall, etal" Law 4237		

HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
(Tax Map 14, p. 130)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
2-5-67	27-4	Thomas H. Hood, Sarah Hood	George Snowden, etal Trustees John Smith, John Dorsey, Daniel White, James Randall, George Randall, David Dorsey, Henry Mathews, James Parker, Trustees and their assignments in office forever	Deed with certain restrictions therein made to wit, that said property should be used for school purposes only and where- as it has for \$1500 with the buildings erected thereon here- tofore known as "Warfield Aca- demy"
14-1-1901	73-139	John J. Dorsey, Isaiah W. Somers, John H. Smith, Peter Jones, Charles H. Hopkins, Lorenzo D. Snowden, Perry Dorsey, William Savoy, Daniel White, Jr., Trustees of Mt. Gregory or Warfield Academy Property	Charles H. Hopkins, John H. Smith, James H. Bond, John J. Dorsey, Lorenzo D. Snowden, Isaiah W. Somers, John W.T.R. Dorsey, Peter Jones, William Savoy, Charles H. Parker, Trustees of M.E. Church of Sykesville circuit and Wash- ington Conference	6,000 square feet
28-12-99	71-342	Stephen G. Hood Emma A. Hood, wife Alfred Mathews, Sophia Mathews, wife Josephine Buck, Eugene Buck, and Anna S. Hood, James T.P. Hood, heirs Thomas Hood	John Dorsey, Isaiah W. Somers, John H. Smith, Peter Jones, Charles Hopkins, Perry Corsey, William H. Savoy, Daniel White, Jr., Lorenzo Snowden, Trustees of "Mt. Gregory" or "Warfield Academy"	"for school and church purposes" "Whereas it has become expedi- ent that said property should also be used for church pur- poses but a doubt has arisen as to the restriction to school purposes only...the heirs of Thomas Hood are willing to relinquish any reversion rights."

TITLE SEARCH

Page 3 of 3

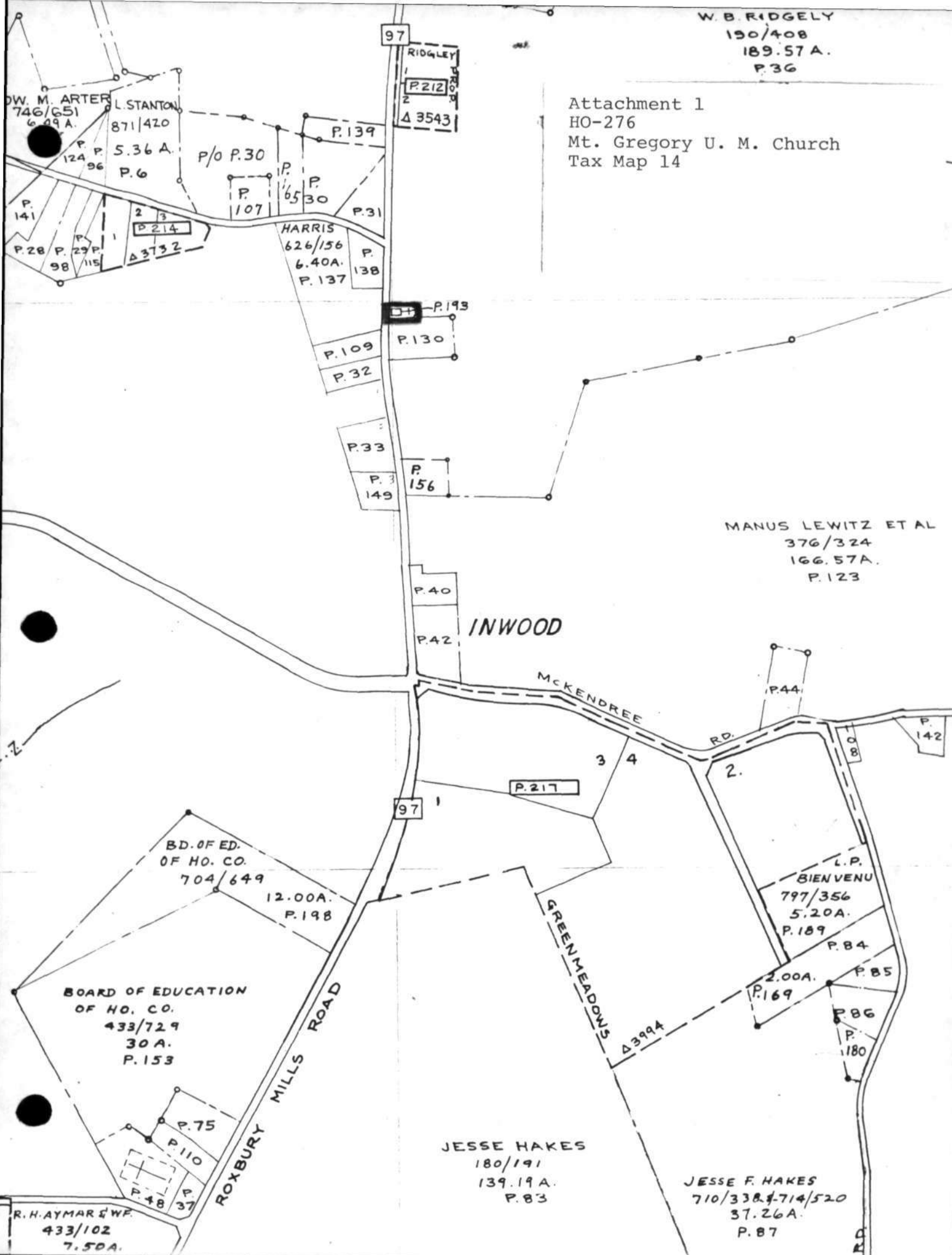
HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
Prepared by Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.

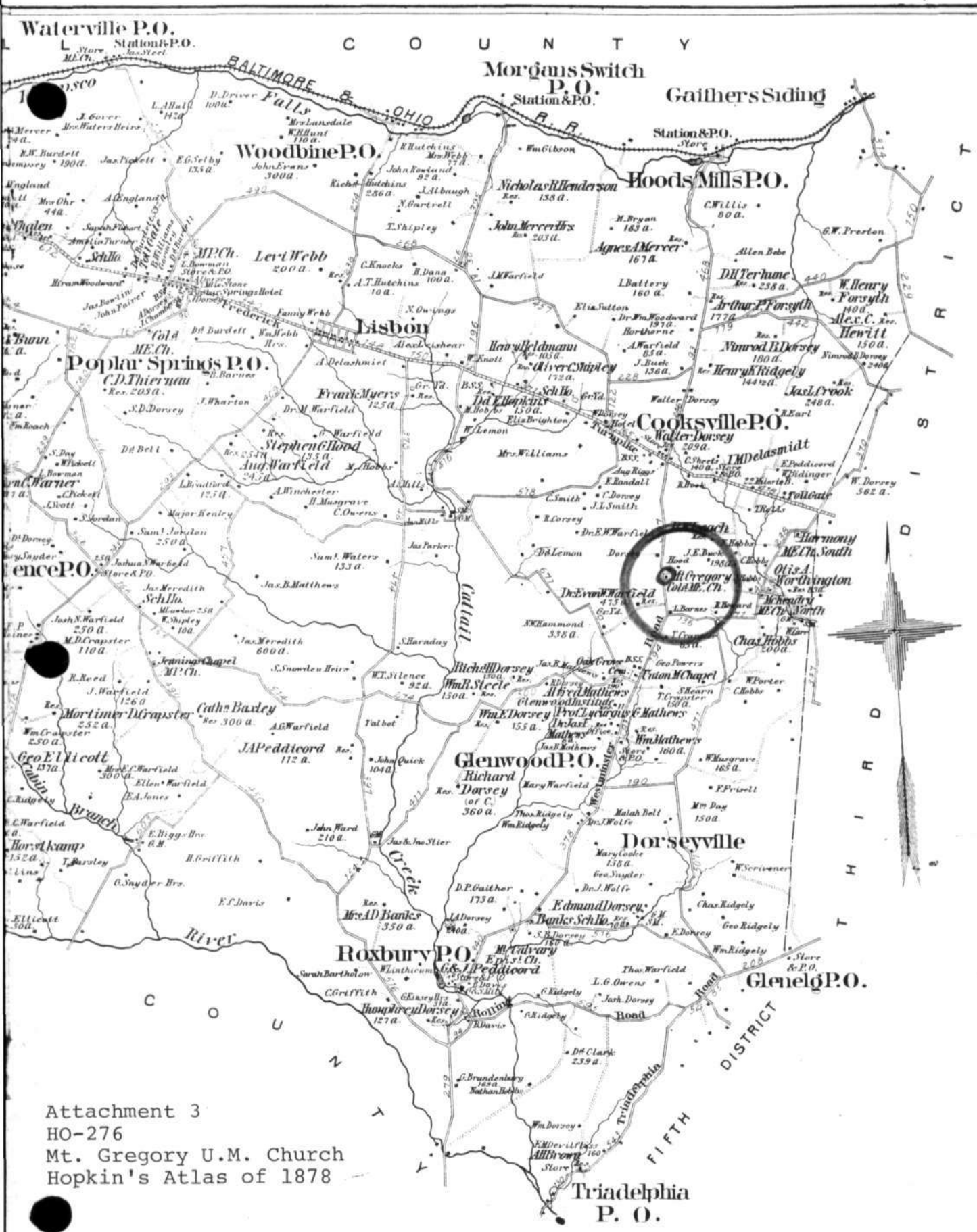
<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
17-6-51	12-72	Charles Haslop, Esq. Sheriff of Howard District of AA County	Thomas Hood	"for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit, and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent.... as a school or seminary under the order, control and direction of the said Trustees.

"Witnesseth whereas on the first day of March, 1851, writ of sate of Md opficii Facias issued out of Court of Howard District of AA County. Court held at Court House at Ellicott Mills, 3rd Monday March, 1850. John Coates and William Glenn, Firm of Coates and Glenn, by judgement of Court recovered against Warfield Academy late of Howard District of AA county as well the sum of \$268.54 a certain debt with interest from Sept. 5, 1846 + the sum of \$7.03 for costs. The Sheriff was commanded to collect and render to the debtors. 14 June, 1851 - exposed to public sales to the highest bidder. Thomas Hood, highest bidder, purchased at price of \$587.00."

W.B. RIDGELY
150/408
189.57 A.
P.36

Attachment 1
HO-276
Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
Tax Map 14





Attachment 3
HO-276
Mt. Gregory U.M. Church
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by E. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

Attachment 2
HO-276

Mt. Gregory U. M. Church
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Woodbine Quadrangle



Name: HO-276

Mount Gregory U. M. Church

Location: Route #97, south of Miller's Mill Road
Cooksville, Maryland

Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.

Date of Photograph: May, 1980

Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust

View: Southwest

Photographer looking: Northeast

Photograph number: 1 of 1